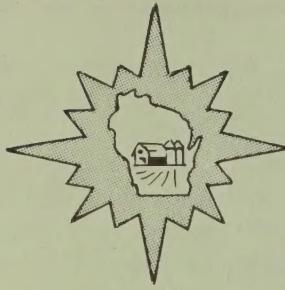


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WISCONSIN

Farm Reporter

APR 22 1975

PRODUCTION SECTION
CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

VOL. VII, NO. 5

- Dairy
- Crops
- Livestock

March 1975

Cream of the News

Milk production in Wisconsin and the Nation during February was about the same as a year earlier.

Wholesale prices of Swiss and cheddar cheese at Wisconsin markets increased from January to February as did the 92-score butter price at the New York market.

Based on the March 1 Planting Intentions survey, farmers in Wisconsin and the Nation plan to reduce corn acreage this year but may increase soybean acreage.

Red meat production in Wisconsin's commercial slaughtering plants during January was below the previous year for the first time since September 1973.

The index of prices received for all farm products sold in Wisconsin declined slightly from mid-January to mid-March.

Cheese production in the Nation during January was 10 percent below a year ago but butter production was up 21 percent.

Milk prices received by Wisconsin farmers during February are expected to show a slight decline from January.

Cold storage stocks of cheese in the Nation at the end of February were 15 percent above a year earlier and butter stocks were up 17 percent.

A custom rates guide for spring field work is shown on page 5.

Prices of barrows and gilts at the St. Paul market in February were up 23 cents from January but were 82 cents under last year.

Cold storage stocks of beef in the Nation at the end of February were 14 percent below a year ago and pork stocks were down 4 percent.

Wisconsin's hog inventory as of March 1 was 14 percent lower than on that date last year while the 14 states where quarterly estimates are made were down 17 percent.

222-3-75

FEBRUARY MILK PRODUCTION COMPARABLE TO YEAR AGO

Milk production in Wisconsin and the Nation during February was about the same as a year ago. Dairy herds in Wisconsin produced 1,410 million pounds of milk in February, down 6 percent from January because of fewer days in the month. Output per cow for February averaged 780 pounds, a decline of 5 pounds from the previous year. Milk cows on Wisconsin farms, at 1,808,000 in February, were up 11,000 from a year earlier.

The Nation's milk production totaled 8,768 million pounds during February. Although milk cow numbers were lower than a year ago, the output per cow increased 4 pounds. The February milk-feed price ratio was up 6 percent from January but 9 percent below February 1974.

Milk Production

Selected States	February 1974	February 1975	Jan.-Feb. 1975	Change from last year	
				Feb.	Jan.-Feb.
Million pounds					
Wisconsin . . .	1,411	1,410	2,903	n. c.	n. c.
Minnesota . . .	815	777	1,579	- 5	- 3
Iowa . . .	309	309	617	n. c.	- 2
New York . . .	746	768	1,589	+ 3	+ 3
Pennsylvania . . .	512	531	1,099	+ 4	+ 3
California . . .	772	783	1,626	+ 1	+ 2
Other states . . .	4,200	4,190	8,656	n. c.	n. c.
United States . . .	8,765	8,768	18,069	n. c.	n. c.

MILK PRICES DOWN SLIGHTLY

Prices received by Wisconsin farmers for all milk sold in February are expected to average \$7.52 a hundredweight, a decline of 3 cents from January. The February price would be \$1.16 below a year earlier.

Milk prices had increased 23 cents a hundredweight in January due to an increase in the support price. Milkfat content for January averaged 3.84 percent compared with 3.79 percent a year ago.

Producers for the Grade A market received \$7.88 a hundredweight in January, up 19 cents from December but

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87 cents less than January last year. Manufacturing grade milk averaged \$7.06 a hundredweight for January, an increase of 31 cents from the previous month but down \$1.37 from January 1974. The price spread between manufacturing and market grade milk was 82 cents in January compared with 32 cents a year earlier.

Milk Prices 1/

Selected States	December 1974		January price per cwt.			Feb. 1975 price per cwt. 2/
	Average test	Price per cwt.	1974	1975	75/74 change	
Milk for all uses	Percent	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Percent	Dollars
Wisconsin	3.88	7.32	8.62	7.55	- 12	7.52
Minnesota	3.74	6.80	8.23	7.07	- 14	7.06
Iowa	3.89	7.19	8.57	7.39	- 14	7.37
New York	3.69	8.05	8.80	8.20	- 7	8.20
California	3.84	9.10	7.95	9.00	+ 13	8.90
United States	3.83	8.23	8.89	8.33	- 6	8.28
Wisconsin utilization						
Market milk	3.90	7.69	8.75	7.88	- 10	xxx
Manufacturing milk	3.85	6.75	8.43	7.06	- 16	xxx
Creameries	3.80	6.70	8.36	6.90	- 17	xxx
Cheese factories	3.85	6.76	8.44	7.07	- 16	xxx
Varied prod. plants	3.84	6.72	8.42	7.03	- 17	xxx

1/Preliminary average buying prices received for milk of average test. They differ from basic buying prices which are for 3.5% milk. 2/Based on preliminary information for milk of average test.

Wisconsin 3.5 Test Milk Prices 1/

Utilization	Jan.	Dec.	Jan.	Change from
	1974	1974	1975 2/	last year
			Dollars per cwt.	Percent
Milk for all uses	7.96	6.60	6.88	- 14
Market milk	8.04	6.90	7.14	- 11
Manufacturing milk	7.83	6.14	6.50	- 17
Creameries	7.82	6.17	6.46	- 17
American cheese plants	7.84	6.14	6.49	- 17
Varied products plants	7.82	6.13	6.49	- 17
Federal Order Markets				
Chicago Regional Base Zone . . .	8.53	7.21	7.42	- 13

1/Computed equivalents. 2/Preliminary.

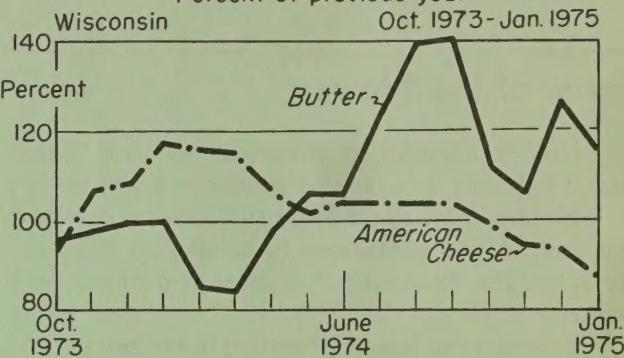
JANUARY CHEESE PRODUCTION DOWN 10 PERCENT FROM YEAR AGO

Production of all cheese in the Nation during January was 10 percent below a year ago. Although output of Italian cheese was up 2 percent and Brick and Muenster showed

little change from January 1974, American cheese production declined 15 percent, Swiss cheese was down 6 percent, and all other varieties dropped 8 percent.

Wisconsin's production of American cheese in January was 12 percent below a year earlier. Minnesota had a decline of 15 percent, Missouri was down 60 percent, and other states produced 13 percent less American cheese than in January 1974.

BUTTER & AMERICAN CHEESE PRODUCTION Percent of previous year



The Nation's butter production during January was up 21 percent from the previous year. Creameries in Wisconsin churned 16 percent more butter in January than a year ago, while Minnesota had an increase of 10 percent. Output of butter in Iowa for January was 59 percent greater than last year and other states showed a gain of 26 percent.

Current Dairy Products Estimates

Item and area	January	January	Change from
	1974	1975	last year
1,000 pounds			
BUTTER			
Wisconsin	16,850	19,500	+ 16
Minnesota	19,600	21,525	+ 10
Iowa	2,800	4,450	+ 59
Other states	41,317	51,875	+ 26
United States	80,567	97,350	+ 21
CHEESE, AMERICAN			
Wisconsin	64,000	56,600	- 12
Minnesota	25,600	21,660	- 15
Missouri	6,450	2,600	- 60
Other states	57,069	49,742	- 13
United States	153,119	130,602	- 15
CHEESE, MISCELLANEOUS			
United States			
Swiss	13,729	12,950	- 6
Brick and Muenster	5,592	5,567	n. c.
Italian	50,154	51,140	+ 2
All other	17,474	16,039	- 8
Total	86,949	85,696	- 1
ALL CHEESE			
United States	240,068	216,298	- 10
OTHER PRODUCTS			
Cottage Cheese			
United States			
Curd 1/	55,018	56,322	+ 2
Creamed 2/	70,473	71,777	+ 2
1,000 gallons			
Ice Cream			
Wisconsin	1,250	1,350	+ 8
Illinois	3,160	2,850	- 10
Iowa	490	680	+ 39
Michigan	2,365	2,680	+ 13
Minnesota	2,245	2,165	- 4
Other states	44,853	48,888	+ 9
United States	54,363	58,613	+ 8

1/Includes cottage, pot, and bakers' cheese with a milkfat content of less than 4 percent. 2/Includes cheese with a milkfat content of 4 to 19 percent.

— PUBLISHED MONTHLY —

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This publication is free upon request to the Wisconsin Statistical Reporting Service, Box 5160, Madison, Wisconsin 53705.

The Nation's cottage cheese production in January was above the previous year for the first time in several months. Output of ice cream in both Wisconsin and the Nation during January was up 8 percent from January 1974.

AMERICAN CHEESE PRODUCTION WELL BELOW FEBRUARY 1974

Weekly estimates for February indicate that American cheese production in both Wisconsin and the Nation will be about a fifth less than a year ago. The Nation's output of American cheese in January was down 15 percent from last year while Wisconsin had a decline of 12 percent.

Butter production in the Nation during February could be up 27 percent from a year earlier, according to weekly estimates. Output of butter in January was 21 percent more than the National total in January 1974. Creameries in Wisconsin increased butter production in February substantially above the 16 percent gain shown for January.

Recent Changes in Butter and Cheese Output

Periods	Butter		American Cheese				
	United States		Wisconsin		United States		Wisconsin
	Production 1975	Change from last year	Change from last year	Production 1975	Change from last year	Change from last year	
January . . .	1,000 lbs.	Percent	Percent	1,000 lbs.	Percent	Percent	
Weeks ending:	97,350	+ 21	+ 16	130,602	- 15	- 12	
Feb. 6 . . .	21,390	+ 24	+ 31	30,100	- 19	- 22	
Feb. 13 . . .	21,850	+ 28	+ 42	30,550	- 19	- 22	
Feb. 20 . . .	22,500	+ 28	+ 29	31,200	- 21	- 16	
Feb. 27 . . .	22,350	+ 28	+ 46	30,800	- 22	- 20	
Total . . .	88,090	+ 27	xxx	122,650	- 20	xxx	

CHEESE AND BUTTER STOCKS HIGHER

Cold storage stocks of cheese in the Nation at the end of February were 15 percent above a year earlier while butter stocks were up 17 percent. Stocks of American cheese totaled 390 million pounds on February 28, an increase of 19 percent from the previous year. Swiss cheese stocks were down 12 percent from February 28, 1974 and all other cheese stocks declined 2 percent. Although Government stocks of American cheese at the end of February were well

Cold Storage Stocks of Butter and Cheese

Commodity	Feb. 28, 1973	Feb. 28, 1974	Feb. 28, 1975	Change from last year
1,000 pounds				
UNITED STATES				
Butter	110,026	50,838	59,330	+ 17
Cheese, American	260,154	328,196	389,932	+ 19
Cheese, Swiss	8,640	15,223	13,421	- 12
Cheese, all other	52,205	52,116	51,329	- 2
Cheese, total	320,999	395,535	454,682	+ 15
WISCONSIN				
Butter	4,452	1,495	4,114	+ 175
Cheese, American	173,416	186,882	207,427	+ 10
GOVERNMENT STOCKS*				
Butter	92,641	7,082	18,547	+ 162
Cheese, American	138	449	1,252	+ 179

*Included in above totals.

Manufacturers' Stocks of Other Dairy Products United States

Commodity	Jan. 31, 1973	Jan. 31, 1974	Jan. 31, 1975	Change from last year
1,000 pounds				Percent
Dried whole milk	4,415	6,014	6,981	+ 16
Dried skim milk	35,399	59,245	125,768	+ 112
Dried buttermilk	3,082	5,555	5,459	- 2
Condensed milk and evaporated milk (case goods) 1/ .	60,179	54,488	68,125	+ 25

1/Combined to avoid disclosing individual plant operations.

above last year, they were only a small part of the total in storage.

The 59 million pounds of butter in cold storage on February 28 were up 8½ million pounds from a year ago but considerably under the 110 million pounds in storage two years earlier. Government stocks of butter exceeded 18 million pounds at the end of February, more than double the previous year but only a fifth of the amount in storage two years ago.

WHOLESALE DAIRY PRICES HIGHER IN FEBRUARY

Wholesale prices of dairy products increased from January to February. Cheddar cheese in 40 pound blocks averaged 76.88 cents a pound at Wisconsin primary markets in February, a gain of over 2 cents from the previous month but more than 14 cents below a year ago.

Swiss cheese, Wisconsin State Brand, averaged almost \$1.02 for a block pound during February, up about a half cent from January but nearly 4 cents lower than last year.

Wholesale prices of 92-score butter at the New York market averaged 69.27 cents a pound for February, an increase of over 1½ cents from a month earlier and about 4 cents higher than February 1974.

Wholesale Dairy Prices

Commodity	February 1974	January 1975	February 1975 1/
Butter, 92-score, New York, pound . . .	65.32¢	67.65¢	69.27¢
Cheese, Cheddars, Wisconsin primary markets, 40 lb. blocks, pound 2/ . . .	91.06¢	74.79¢	76.88¢
Cheese, Swiss, Wisconsin State Brand, block pound 2/	105.50¢	101.15¢	101.75¢
Evaporated milk, North Central States, case, 48-14½ oz. cans, range	\$11.30-11.68	\$11.90-12.51	\$ - - - - -
Nonfat dry milk solids, spray, Chicago area, pound	57.75¢	56.73¢	59.24¢

1/Preliminary estimates. 2/Selling prices, f.o.b. at Wisconsin assembly points.

RED MEAT PRODUCTION FALLS BELOW YEAR AGO

Production of red meat in Wisconsin's commercial slaughtering plants during January totaled 120 million pounds, a decline of 4 percent from a year ago. This was the first time since September 1973 that the output of red meat in Wisconsin was below the previous year. Beef production in January was down 2 percent from last year and pork production fell 10 percent.

There were 125,000 cattle slaughtered in Wisconsin during January, up 4,000 from a year earlier. However, the

average liveweight of cattle at 1,100 pounds for January was 58 pounds lighter than the previous year.

Hog slaughter in January numbered 297,000, down 21,000 from January 1974. Average liveweight for hogs butchered during January was 241 pounds, 8 pounds less than a year earlier.

Calf slaughter for January totaled 36,000, an increase of 12,400 from last year. Calf liveweight averaged 126 pounds in January, 21 pounds lighter than a year ago. The January sheep and lamb kill of 400 was 100 more than the previous year.

Commercial Livestock Slaughter

Area	Number		Liveweight	
	January		Change from last year	January
	1974	1975		1974
	1,000 head		Percent	Million pounds
Cattle				
Wisconsin	121.0	125.0	+ 3	140.1
United States 1/ . . .	3,088.6	3,506.3	+ 14	3,280.8
Calves				
Wisconsin	23.6	36.0	+ 53	3.5
United States 1/ . . .	214.2	375.3	+ 75	50.5
Hogs				
Wisconsin	318.0	297.0	- 7	79.2
United States 1/ . . .	7,233.5	6,758.7	- 7	1,775.0
Sheep and lambs				
Wisconsin3	.4	+ 33	.030
United States 1/ . . .	770.1	681.7	- 11	83.1
				.039
				71.8

1/Excludes Alaska.

MEAT STOCKS DOWN 10 PERCENT

Cold storage stocks of meat in the Nation at the end of February were 10 percent below a year earlier. Beef stocks were down 14 percent and the pork supply in cold storage was 4 percent less than on February 28, 1974.

There were 390 million pounds of beef in cold storage at the end of February, a decline of about 14 million pounds from a month earlier and nearly 66 million pounds under last year.

Pork stocks amounted to more than 298 million pounds in cold storage on February 28. Although this was an increase of 3½ million pounds from the previous month, pork stocks

Cold Storage Stocks of Meat United States

Commodity	Feb. 28, 1973	Feb. 28, 1974	Jan. 31, 1975	Feb. 28, 1975	Change from last year
	1,000 pounds			Percent	
Beef:					
Frozen	357,521	443,759	400,261	381,411	- 14
In cure and cured	11,335	12,312	13,844	8,899	- 28
Total	368,856	456,071	414,105	390,310	- 14
Pork:					
Frozen	187,645	294,134	281,409	283,949	- 3
In cooler	13,998	15,547	13,589	14,566	- 6
Total	201,643	309,681	294,998	298,515	- 4
Other meats and meat products:					
Veal, frozen	14,873	12,423	14,605	13,721	+ 10
Lamb and mutton, frozen	11,847	13,018	12,404	10,745	- 17
Canned meats in cooler:					
Hams	49,249	67,593	63,952	64,499	- 5
Other meats	15,029	16,596	14,723	13,939	- 16
Total, all meats	661,497	875,382	814,787	791,729	- 10

at the end of February were 11 million pounds below a year ago. Pork bellies, at 44 million pounds in cold storage on February 28, were 18 percent less than last year.

PRICES RECEIVED INDEX DOWN SLIGHTLY IN FEBRUARY

The index of prices received for all farm products sold in Wisconsin declined slightly from mid-January to mid-February. Lower prices for milk, crops, turkeys, eggs, steers and heifers, and milk cows offset increases for hay and some livestock items. At 479 percent of the 1910-14 base, the prices received index was 16 percent below the record high reached in February last year.

Milk cows for herd replacements averaged \$420.00 each in February, down \$5.00 from January and the tenth consecutive month of lower prices for milk cows. A year ago milk cows averaged \$630.00 each for February. Steers and heifers averaged \$30.10 a hundredweight as of mid-February, a decline of 60 cents from the previous month and \$8.80 under last year.

Calf prices went up in February for the first time in a year. Calves averaged \$30.00 a hundredweight on February 15, a gain of \$2.00 from a month earlier but \$23.50 below February 1974. Slaughter cows averaged \$18.30 a hundredweight in February, up \$1.50 from January but nearly \$14.00 below a year ago.

Prices Received by Wisconsin Farmers

Commodity	Unit	Feb. 15, 1973	Feb. 15, 1974	Jan. 15, 1975	Feb. 15, 1975
Dollars					
Milk cows	Head	490.00	630.00	425.00	420.00
Steers and heifers	Cwt.	38.60	38.90	30.70	30.10
Cows	Cwt.	30.20	32.20	16.80	18.30
Calves	Cwt.	52.00	53.50	28.00	30.00
Hogs	Cwt.	33.40	38.30	37.90	37.90
Sheep	Cwt.	8.50	10.50	5.50	5.80
Lambs	Cwt.	31.20	34.00	34.50	35.00
Chickens 1/	Lb.	.100	.155	.120	.130
Turkeys	Lb.	.250	.350	.380	.370
Eggs	Doz.	.430	.610	.496	.444
Corn	Bu.	1.27	2.73	3.09	2.87
Wheat	Bu.	1.97	5.44	3.85	3.72
Oats	Bu.	.87	1.55	1.50	1.50
Soybeans	Bu.	5.10	5.87	6.12	5.58
Alfalfa hay, baled	Ton	36.00	35.00	37.00	38.50

1/Excludes broilers.

Hog prices remained unchanged from January to February but at \$37.90 a hundredweight were 40 cents under last year. Sheep averaged \$5.80 a hundredweight as of mid-February, up 30 cents from January but \$4.70 below the previous year. Lambs increased 50 cents from January to February and at \$35.00 a hundredweight were \$1.00 more than in February 1974.

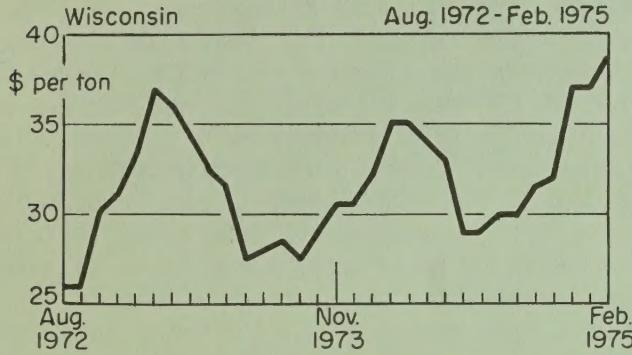
Egg prices dropped about 5 cents from January to February. Eggs averaged 44.4 cents a dozen as of February 15, nearly 17 cents below a year ago. Turkeys averaged 37 cents a pound liveweight in February, down 1 cent from the previous month. This was the first decline for turkeys since April 1974 but the mid-February price was 2 cents above a year earlier.

Corn prices were lower for the fourth consecutive month. At \$2.87 a bushel on February 15, corn was 22 cents under January but 14 cents higher than February 1974. Soybeans also were down for the fourth straight month. The mid-February soybean price of \$5.58 a bushel was 54 cents under the previous month and 29 cents below last year.

Wheat averaged \$3.72 a bushel in February, a decline of 13 cents from January and \$1.72 less than a year earlier. Oats remained unchanged from January to February at \$1.50 a bushel but was 5 cents below last year. This was the first time oats was under a year ago since June 1972.

Baled alfalfa hay reached a record high of \$38.50 a ton in mid-February, up \$1.50 from January and \$3.50 more than the previous year.

ALFALFA HAY PRICES



CUSTOM RATES GUIDE FOR 1975

Farm numbers continued to decline in Wisconsin and the Nation during 1974. Those farms remaining in operation have to meet an expanding domestic and foreign demand for food as the world's population increases. Farmers have been able to keep pace with food needs by the use of modern and

Planting and Fertilizing Operations, Wisconsin, 1974 1/

Operation	Range in rates	Average rate	Range in rates	Average rate
Dollars per acre		Dollars per hour		
Grain drilling:				
Without fertilizer				
Width in feet				
7-9	1.50-5.00	2.40	3.50- 8.00	5.27
10 and over . . .	1.50-4.00	2.65	4.00-10.00	7.41
With fertilizer				
Width in feet				
7-9	1.25-5.00	2.81	4.00-12.00	6.23
10 and over . . .	1.50-5.50	3.10	4.75-12.00	8.44
Corn planting:				
Without fertilizer				
2 row	1.50-4.00	2.41	2.50- 7.50	5.25
4 row	1.50-5.00	3.07	3.50-13.50	9.60
With fertilizer				
2 row	1.50-4.00	2.76	3.00-10.00	4.97
4 row	1.50-6.00	3.30	3.75-20.00	11.56
With fertilizer and insecticide:				
4 row	2.75-4.00	3.35	-	-
With fertilizer, insecticide and herbicide:				
4 row	2.25-6.00	3.59	10.00-13.00	12.50
Fertilizer application:				
Dry fertilizer75-4.00	1.68	2.50-10.00	6.80
Liquid fertilizer	1.00-4.00	2.04	2.50-15.00	10.00
Anhydrous ammonia	1.00-5.50	2.47	9.60-13.00	11.65

1/Rates include charges for the machines, power unit, operator's labor and fuel, but excludes costs of materials such as seed, fertilizer, herbicides, etc.

efficient farm machinery. Large amounts of capital are required however to purchase this machinery. With a tight money market, higher finance charges, and rising farm production costs, many farmers look for alternatives to investing substantial sums of money in machinery that receives restricted use during a crop season. Leasing or hiring farm machinery are options that some farmers rely on to reduce their capital investment. Custom work has become an important part of Wisconsin's agriculture.

Custom work rates published in the tables include the cost of the machine with fuel, operator, and other incidental supplies but do not include the costs of materials used such as seed, fertilizer, and herbicide. No attempt was made to distinguish between custom operators who do this work for their main income and farmers who occasionally do custom work as a sideline, or on an exchange basis. Custom operators generally tend to charge higher rates to meet their total expenses and provide a return on their investment.

Rates shown in the tables should be used as guides rather than absolute values in making decisions regarding custom rates. Rates can vary widely, depending on topography, soil conditions, type and size of machine, traditional rates in a given area, and special services performed. These

Land Tillage Operations, Wisconsin, 1974 1/

Operation	Range in rates	Average rate	Range in rates	Average rate
Dollars per acre		Dollars per hour		
Plowing:				
Number of bottoms				
2	3.00-5.00	4.04	3.00- 9.00	5.21
3	3.00-7.00	4.84	4.00-12.00	7.48
4	3.00-8.00	5.29	5.00-16.00	11.75
5	2.00-9.00	5.97	6.52-22.00	13.82
6 and over	4.00-8.00	6.27	8.00-22.00	15.43
Disking:				
Width in feet				
8-12	1.00-6.00	2.82	3.00-14.00	7.44
13-16	2.00-6.00	2.99	8.00-16.00	12.27
17 and over	2.00-5.50	3.83	15.00-20.00	17.00
Quack digging:				
Width in feet				
8-9	1.50-4.00	2.84	3.75-10.00	7.10
10-13	1.50-5.00	3.10	3.00-15.00	7.84
14 and over	1.50-5.00	2.74	10.00-18.00	13.56
Chisel plowing:				
All reports 2/	2.00-7.00	4.35	4.50-16.00	10.82
Harrowing:				
Spiketooth				
Width in feet				
10-18	1.00-4.00	1.82	2.00-10.00	5.30
19 and over	1.00-4.00	1.84	5.50-13.00	7.94
Springtooth				
Width in feet				
7-10	1.75-3.50	2.35	4.00- 5.00	4.50
11-15	2.00-5.00	2.52	4.50-12.00	7.59
16 and over	1.00-4.00	2.26	5.00-15.00	10.21
Chopping corn stalks:				
Width in feet				
6 and under	1.50-5.00	2.87	3.15-10.00	6.93
7 and over	2.00-7.00	3.36	7.00-12.00	8.92
Cultivating:				
Without fertilizer				
2 row	1.50-4.00	2.66	4.00-10.00	6.38
4 row	1.00-4.00	2.58	6.00-14.00	9.00
6 row	2.00-3.00	2.50	-	-
With fertilizer				
4 row	2.00-6.00	3.20	11.00-14.00	12.57

1/Rates include charges for the machines, power unit, operator's labor and fuel, but excludes costs of materials such as fertilizer, herbicides, etc. 2/State average per acre includes rates for all sizes of machines reported and reports that failed to indicate size of machine.

rates can be used to check on local rates or to see if leasing or owning a machine may be a better alternative. The user should always refer to the footnotes following the tables before making a final decision relative to doing or hiring farm work done. A more complete report on custom rates in Wisconsin, including harvesting operations and other farm work, is available by writing to the Wisconsin Statistical Reporting Service, Box 5160, Madison, Wisconsin 53705.

FARMERS MAY REDUCE CORN ACREAGE

The annual March 1 survey of planting intentions for the 1975 crop season indicated that farmers in Wisconsin and the Nation plan to reduce corn acreage. Wisconsin farmers expect to plant 3,450,000 acres of corn in 1975, a decline of 40,000 acres or 1 percent from 1974. Nationally, corn acreage is indicated at 75.3 million acres or 3 percent below last year.

Planting intentions for soybeans point to an increased acreage for 1975. Wisconsin farmers intend to grow 245,000 acres of soybeans, up 7 percent from 1974 and close to the record acreage for beans in 1973. The National soybean crop could total 56.6 million acres, an increase of 6 percent from a year ago.

Oat acreage may be reduced in Wisconsin but remain about the same for the Nation. Farmers in Wisconsin intend to sow 1,410,000 acres of oats in 1975, down 4 percent from the previous year and a record low. Seeding of oats in the Nation is expected to total 18.2 million acres for 1975.

Spring wheat acreage in Wisconsin during 1975 may remain unchanged from the 22,000 acres planted in 1974. Barley acreage is indicated at 27,000 acres for 1975 compared with 20,000 acres a year earlier. Intentions from the March survey show a 9 percent decline in the 1975 spring wheat crop for the Nation but a 12 percent gain in barley acreage.

Wisconsin farmers expect to harvest hay from 4 million acres in 1975, up 1 percent from 1974. The Nation's hay acreage is indicated at 61 million acres, also 1 percent more than last year.

Tobacco growers in Wisconsin are planning to raise 9 percent more tobacco in 1975 than what was harvested in 1974. Type 54 acreage is expected to increase 500 acres and type 55 acreage could be up 300 acres. Nationally, tobacco acreage may be 11 percent higher in 1975 than in the previous year.

Potato growers intend to reduce acreage in 1975. Wisconsin potato acreage is expected to total 50,000 acres, a decline of 3,000 acres from last year. The Nation's fall potato crop is indicated at 1.1 million acres, down 5 percent from a year ago.

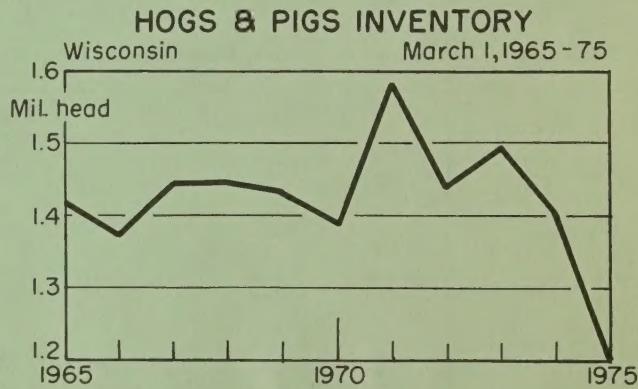
HOGL INVENTORY AT RECORD LOW FOR MARCH

The inventory of hogs and pigs on Wisconsin farms March 1 was 1,200,000 head, down 14 percent from a year ago and a record low for that date since the quarterly estimates began in 1960. Hogs kept for breeding purposes numbered 204,000 as of March 1, a decline of 17 percent from the previous year. Hogs and pigs being raised primarily for the slaughter market totaled 996,000 or 14 percent less than on March 1, 1974.

Wisconsin farmers had 62,000 sows that farrowed from December through February. This was 12,000 sows fewer than farrowed in that quarter a year earlier. The average litter rate of 7.35 pigs was higher than the 7.10 pigs per litter in December 1973 - February 1974.

Farrowings in Wisconsin from March through May 1975 are expected to total 90,000 sows, 15 percent below that quarter in 1974. Farmers in the State intend to farrow 80,000 sows during June through August, down 18 percent from the previous year.

Hogs and pigs on farms March 1 in the 14 states where quarterly estimates are made totaled 40.3 million head, a decline of 17 percent from a year ago. Breeding stock was down 20 percent and market hogs and pigs were 14 percent below March 1, 1974. The March 1 inventory of hogs and pigs in the 10 Corn Belt States totaled 35.4 million head, the lowest for that date since quarterly estimates began in 1960.



Planted Acreage, Selected Crops, 1975 Intentions
Compared with 1973 and 1974 Planted Acreage, Wisconsin and United States

Crop	Wisconsin				United States			
	1973	1974	1975	Change from last year	1973	1974	1975	Change from last year
	1,000 acres				1,000 acres			
Corn, all	3,200	3,490	3,450	— 1	71,912	77,746	75,290	— 3
Spring wheat	12	22	22	n. c.	12,794	14,688	13,384	— 9
Oats 1/	1,500	1,470	1,410	— 4	19,147	18,100	18,189	n. c.
Barley 1/	22	20	27	+ 35	11,229	9,117	10,184	+ 12
Potatoes, fall	48.5	53.0	50.0	— 6	1,085.0	1,161.2	1,098.4	— 5
Tobacco, type 54 2/	4.9	4.7	5.2	+ 11	—	—	—	—
Tobacco, type 55 2/	5.3	4.7	5.0	+ 6	—	—	—	—
Tobacco, all 2/	10.2	9.4	10.2	+ 9	886.6	961.8	1,070.1	+ 11
Soybeans 3/	246	230	245	+ 7	56,675	53,580	56,632	+ 6
Hay, all 2/	3,950	3,950	4,000	+ 1	62,099	60,546	61,018	+ 1

1/U. S. total includes acreage planted preceding fall. 2/Acres harvested or intended for harvest. 3/Grown alone for all purposes.

All Hogs and Pigs on Farms, Breeding and Market
March 1, 1974 and 1975, 14 States

State	For breeding			Market			Total hogs and pigs		
	1974	1975	Change from last year	1974	1975	Change from last year	1974	1975	Change from last year
	1,000 head		Percent	1,000 head		Percent	1,000 head		Percent
Georgia	304	237	-22	1,539	1,293	-16	1,843	1,530	-17
Illinois	1,050	856	-18	5,730	5,044	-12	6,780	5,900	-13
Indiana	658	500	-24	4,042	3,200	-21	4,700	3,700	-21
Iowa	2,067	1,767	-15	11,133	9,633	-13	13,200	11,400	-14
Kansas	270	193	-29	1,590	1,257	-21	1,860	1,450	-22
Kentucky	206	146	-29	969	804	-17	1,175	950	-19
Minnesota	589	434	-26	3,141	2,666	-15	3,730	3,100	-17
Missouri	660	513	-22	3,140	2,587	-18	3,800	3,100	-18
Nebraska	475	357	-25	2,705	2,193	-19	3,180	2,550	-20
North Carolina	300	272	-9	1,550	1,428	-8	1,850	1,700	-8
Ohio	318	241	-24	1,802	1,409	-22	2,120	1,650	-22
South Dakota	330	240	-27	1,605	1,060	-34	1,935	1,300	-33
Texas	150	120	-20	820	680	-17	970	800	-18
Wisconsin	245	204	-17	1,155	996	-14	1,400	1,200	-14
Total 14 States	7,622	6,080	-20	40,921	34,250	-16	48,543	40,330	-17

Sows Farrowing, Pigs per Litter and Pig Crop
December 1/ through February, 1974 and 1975, 14 States

State	Sows farrowing			Pigs per litter		Pig crop 2/		
	1974	1975	Change from last year	1974	1975	1974	1975	Change from last year
	1,000 head		Percent	Head		1,000 head		Percent
Georgia	107	75	-30	6.96	7.07	745	530	-29
Illinois	330	260	-21	6.60	6.80	2,178	1,768	-19
Indiana	220	160	-27	6.69	7.11	1,472	1,138	-23
Iowa	505	440	-13	6.95	7.05	3,510	3,102	-12
Kansas	100	70	-30	6.90	6.95	690	487	-29
Kentucky	65	50	-23	7.10	7.00	462	350	-24
Minnesota	180	140	-22	7.20	7.10	1,296	994	-23
Missouri	200	140	-30	6.92	7.06	1,384	988	-29
Nebraska	145	110	-24	7.00	7.40	1,015	814	-20
North Carolina	110	97	-12	7.10	7.00	781	679	-13
Ohio	93	80	-14	6.40	7.20	595	576	-3
South Dakota	82	52	-37	7.30	7.00	599	364	-39
Texas	47	42	-11	7.20	7.00	338	294	-13
Wisconsin	74	62	-16	7.10	7.35	525	456	-13
Total 14 States	2,258	1,778	-21	6.90	7.05	15,590	12,540	-20

1/December preceding year. 2/Number of pigs born December through February that were on hand March 1 or had been sold.

Sows Farrowed and Sows to Farrow
March through August, 1974 and 1975, 14 States

State	March through May			June through August		
	1974	1975 1/	Change from last year	1974	1975 1/	Change from last year
	1,000 head		Percent	1,000 head		Percent
Georgia	88	70	-20	80	62	-22
Illinois	485	380	-22	355	295	-17
Indiana	235	180	-23	220	175	-20
Iowa	920	760	-17	590	550	-7
Kansas	115	82	-29	90	65	-28
Kentucky	85	60	-29	63	55	-13
Minnesota	252	200	-21	205	165	-20
Missouri	270	220	-19	220	160	-27
Nebraska	220	160	-27	150	120	-20
North Carolina	109	101	-7	102	94	-8
Ohio	135	100	-26	108	83	-23
South Dakota	175	130	-26	95	68	-28
Texas	50	40	-20	48	42	-12
Wisconsin	106	90	-15	98	80	-18
Total 14 States	3,245	2,573	-21	2,424	2,014	-17

1/Number indicated by breeding intentions reports.

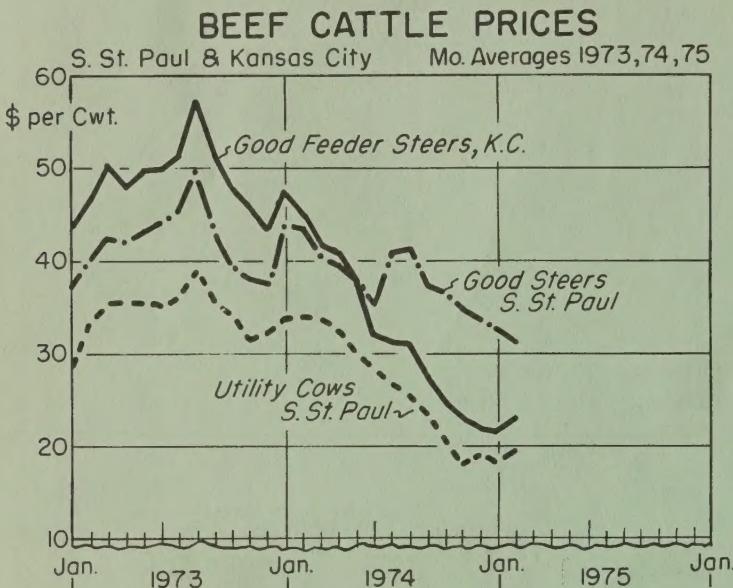
FEEDER STEER PRICE SHOWS SOME GAIN

Good grade feeder steers weighing between 600-700 pounds averaged \$23.33 a hundredweight at the Kansas City

market in February, a gain of \$1.58 from January. This was the first increase for feeder steers at Kansas City in 13 months. However, the February price was well below a year ago when good grade feeder steers averaged \$45.50 a hundredweight.

Good grade fed steers weighing between 900-1100

pounds averaged \$31.33 a hundredweight at the St. Paul market during February, down \$1.58 from the previous month and \$12.43 under last year. Utility cows at St. Paul increased from January to February. At \$19.83 a hundredweight, utility cows were \$1.67 above a month earlier but \$14.57 below February 1974.



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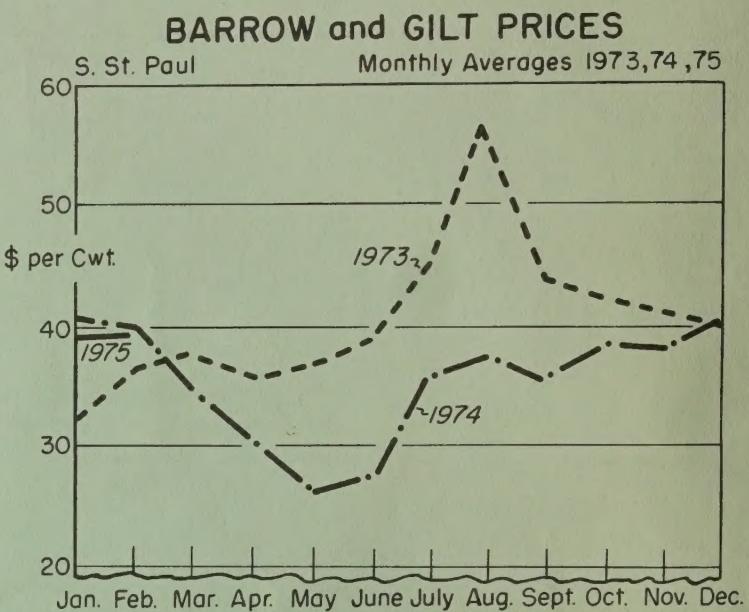
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OFFICIAL BUSINESS

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BARROWS AND GILTS UP SLIGHTLY IN FEBRUARY

Prices of barrows and gilts at the St. Paul market in February averaged \$39.24 a hundredweight, an increase of 23 cents from January but 82 cents under a year earlier.



POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
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BULK THIRD CLASS

